

Thermal Optics Systems

DESCRIPTION

The Marine Corps has three key thermal optics systems: the Thermal Weapon Sight II (TWS II), which includes the Medium Weapon Thermal Sight (MWTS) (AN/PAS-13D(v)2) and Heavy Weapon Thermal Sight (HWTS) (AN/PAS-13D(v)3); the Tactical Range Thermal Imager (TRTI); and the Long Range Thermal Imager (LRTI).

The TWS II - which provides capability similar to its predecessor AN/PAS-13B (TWS I) with technology improvements that reduce weight and provide longer battery life - is a self-contained lightweight, compact, durable, battery-operated, infrared imaging sensor used for target acquisition. The MWTS and HWTS have the same design, but different telescopes and software. Both TWS II sights come with a MIL-STD-1913 rail grabber interface, including a vertical spacer. The TWS II will be mounted on crew-served weapons including the M240, M2 and Mk19.

The TRTI provides small unit leaders with the ability to detect and recognize potential threats in a limited visibility environment within tactical ranges up to 1,500 meters. The binocular design enhances human performance elements that improve operational use.

The LRTI will be employed by Force and Division Reconnaissance Units, and target acquisition units (forward observers, forward air controllers, etc.) providing a longer range capability, approaching 15,000 meters and significantly increas-

ing the lethality and survivability of the Warfighter.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

New thermal optics systems provide a complementary capability that will broaden the range of environments and conditions in which Marines are able to effectively operate. Because thermal optics are not subject to background light “wash-out”, they are ideal for use in both day and night lighting conditions, including total darkness. Additionally, thermal optics can be used under conditions of limited visibility such as darkness, smoke, fog, dust and haze.

PROGRAM STATUS

A total of 9,489 TWS II systems have been procured through FY 2006 with deliveries occurring in FY 2007-09. 1,297 LTRIs have been procured with deliveries through FY 2008.

Procurement Profile	FY 2007	FY 2008
TWS II (AN/PAS-13D)	2,809	TBD
TRTI	3,919	TBD
LRTI	200	TBD

Developer/Manufacturer:

AN/PAS-13D TWS II: DRS Technologies, Melbourne FL

LRTI: Kollsman Industries, Merrimack, NH